WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for processing a call in a communications network dialed to an

2   Internet Protocol (IP) endpoint to afford the IP endpoint the ability to implement a

3   desired multimedia application in connection with the call, comprising the steps of:

4   receiving the call in the network for processing;

5   establishing a session with the IP endpoint by resolving an address associated

6   with the endpoint;

7   routing the call to the endpoint;

8   determining if the IP end point to which the call is routed to requires a multimedia

9   application, and if so,

10   providing such application.

1   2.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the call received in the network

2   is a voice call and wherein the voice call is processed by converting the call into a Voice-

3   over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call and wherein signaling information associated with the

4   voice call is mapped into a format compatible with said VoIP call.

1   3.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the multimedia application is a

2   stateful application and wherein the network actively monitors such application while the

3   call remains active.

1   4.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the multimedia application is a

2   stateless application and wherein the network does not actively monitor the application.

1   5.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the multimedia application

2   includes access to the Internet.

1   6.   The method according to claim 1 wherein resolving the address of the IP

2   endpoint includes referencing the IP endpoint through a Universal Resource Locator

3   (URL) (or other indirect mapping) assigned to an address associated with that IP

4   endpoint.

1   7.   The method according to claim 6 dynamically assigning the address of the

2   IP endpoint associated with the URL.

1   8.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the call for

2   processing includes the step of accessing a common database for call processing

3   instructions irrespective of the format of the call.

1   9.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the call for

2   processing includes the step of accessing a common database to obtain a location routing

3   number for routing the call.

1   10.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the call for

2   processing includes the step of accessing a common database for call processing

3   instructions irrespective of the format of the call and to obtain a location routing number

4   for routing the call.

1   11.   A method for processing a call in a communications network dialed to an

2   Internet Protocol (IP) endpoint to afford the IP endpoint the ability to implement a

3   desired multimedia application in connection with the call, comprising the steps of:

4   receiving the call in the network for processing, and if the call has a voice format,

5   then converting the call into a Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call and mapping

6   signaling information associated with the voice call into a format compatible with said

7   VoIP call;

8   establishing a session with the IP endpoint by resolving an address associated

9   with the endpoint;

10   routing the VoIP call to the endpoint;

11   determining if the IP end point to which call routed to the endpoint requires a

12   multimedia application, and if so,

13   providing such application.

1   12.   The method according to claim 11 wherein the multimedia application is a

2   stateful application and wherein the network actively monitors such application while the

3   call remains active.

1   13.   The method according to claim 11 wherein the multimedia application is a

2   stateless application and wherein the network does not actively monitor the application.

1   14.   The method according to claim 11 wherein the multimedia application

2   includes access to the Internet.

1   15.   The method according to claim 11 wherein resolving the address of the IP

2   endpoint includes referencing the IP endpoint through a Universal Resource Locator

3   (URL) (or other mapping) assigned to an address associated with that IP endpoint.

1   16.   The method according to claim 11 dynamically assigning the address of

2   the IP endpoint associated with the URL.

1   17.   The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of receiving the call

2   for processing includes the step of accessing a common database for call processing

3   instructions.

1   18.   The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of receiving the call

2   for processing includes the step of accessing a common database to obtain a location

3   routing number for routing the call.

1   19.   The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of receiving the call

2   for processing includes the step of accessing a common database for call processing

3   instructions and to obtain a location routing number for routing the call.

1 20. A method for processing a call having a first format in a communications

2 network dialed to an Internet Protocol (IP) endpoint to afford the IP endpoint the ability

3 to implement a desired multimedia application in connection with the call, comprising the

4 steps of:

5   receiving the call in the network for processing, including accessing a first

6 common database, irrespective of the call format, obtain a location routing number for

7 routing the call;

8   establishing a session with the IP endpoint by resolving an address associated

9 with the endpoint; and

10   routing the call to the endpoint.

1 21. The method according to claim 20 wherein the step of receiving the call

2 for processing includes the step of accessing a second common database for call

3 processing instructions.

1 22. The method accordance to claim 20 wherein the first common database is

2 accessed to obtain the location routing number and call processing instructions for

3 processing instructions.

1 23. The method according to claim 20 further including the steps of:

2   determining if the IP end point to which call routed to the endpoint requires a

3 multimedia application, and if so,

4   providing such application.

1 24. The method according to claim 23 wherein the multimedia application is a

2 stateful application and wherein the network actively monitors such application while the

3 call remains active.

1 25. The method according to claim 23 wherein the multimedia application is a

2 stateless application and wherein the network does not actively monitor the application.

1   26.   The method according to claim 23 wherein the multimedia application

2   includes access to the Internet.

1   27.   The method according to claim 20 wherein resolving the address of the IP

2   endpoint includes referencing the IP endpoint through a Universal Resource Locator

3   (URL) (or other indirect mapping) assigned to an address associated with that IP

4   endpoint.

1   28.   The method according to claim 27 further including the step of

2   dynamically assigning the address of the IP endpoint associated with the URL.

1   29.   The method according to claim 20 wherein the call received in the

2   network has a voice format and wherein the voice call is processed by converting the call

3   into a Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) formatted call and wherein signaling

4   information associated with the voice call is mapped into a format compatible with said

5   VoIP formatted call.

1   30.   A method for processing a call in a communications network dialed to an

2   Internet Protocol (IP) endpoint to afford the IP endpoint the ability to implement a

3   desired multimedia application in connection with the call, comprising the steps of:

4   receiving the call in the network for processing;

5   establishing a session with the IP endpoint by referencing the IP endpoint through

6   a Universal Resource Locator (URL) assigned to an address associated with that IP

7   endpoint; and

8   routing the call to the endpoint.

1   31.   The method according to claim 30 further including the step of

2   dynamically assigning the address of the IP endpoint associated with the URL.

3

4   A method where, if an IP address cannot be assigned to an IP endpoint (because, for

5   example the IP endpoint is turned off or in a failed condition), alternate call handling

6   instructions may be provided, including access to multimedia applications.

7   A method where an individual, while keeping his existing phone number, can "port" his

8   number from an existing circuit endpoint to a new IP endpoint (and vice versa), and

9   among IP endpoints.

1